

The old adage goes that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Apart from creating the Strategic Petroleum Reserves after the oil embargoes of the 1970s, the United States did painfully little to make sure that oil could never again be used as a weapon against us. If anything, we put ourselves further under the thumb of foreign oil. In 1972, we imported approximately 28 percent of the oil we consume from foreign countries; today the United States imports 62 percent of its oil from other nations. While half of that amount comes from our friends in Mexico and Canada, the other half of our imported oil travels from unstable, undemocratic or unfriendly regimes. That means that every time I fill up my gas tank—whether the price is \$2 a gallon or \$4 a gallon—at least half of my money goes into the economies of Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Angola. And while the tactics of oil manipulation may change—price spikes versus an outright embargo—the results are eerily the same.

That is why I am introducing this bill, to continue to move our country forward on the path toward breaking America's dependence on foreign sources of oil while at the same time investing in a renewable energy future. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are looking to pass a costly cap-and-trade program that will only serve to increase the price of energy for the American consumer and devastate energy companies in my home State of Indiana. Now is not the time to burden families with higher energy costs, when many of them are already struggling to find and keep jobs, pay for college and provide for their families.

I believe that in the long-run we need to get off oil and that requires more investment in alternative energy and energy conservation technologies. My bill addressed this through provisions that would increase alternative energy sources and diversify the energy grid with currently available alternative energy technologies. As a nation, we waste far too much energy with inefficient engines and machines. That is why my bill would provide tax incentives for companies to produce fuel efficient vehicles. In fact, it provides a \$500 tax credit for individuals who purchase hybrid cars made by American-based companies.

However, while we are discovering new, clean and cost-effective ways to increase the American energy supply, we must recognize that oil will remain a part of our energy mix for some time. The good news about this is that we have plenty of it. The Department of the Interior, DOI, conducted a comprehensive inventory of oil and natural gas resources located off our coastlines within the last several years, and according to the Department's figures there is an estimated 8.5 billion barrels of known oil reserves and 29.3 trillion cubic feet, tcf, of known natural gas reserves along our coastlines; with 82 percent of the oil and 95 percent of the gas located in the Gulf of Mexico, GOM. However, even more importantly, the Department of the Interior estimates that there are untapped resources of about 86 billion barrels, 51 percent in the Gulf of Mexico, and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 55 percent in the Gulf of Mexico, out there. My bill would open up these areas to access these resources. Domestic production of these resources would provide much-needed real energy jobs without any cost to the taxpayer.

In addition, my bill opens up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, which holds the

single largest deposit of oil in the entire United States. Its 10.4 billion barrels of oil is more than double the proven reserves of the entire State of Texas and almost half of the total proven reserves in the U.S., 22 billion barrels. Had President Clinton not vetoed ANWR energy production in 1995, the United States could be getting nearly 1.5 million barrels of oil per day from the arctic right now.

In addition, the U.S. has been called the Saudi Arabia of oil shale. It has been estimated that oil shale deposits in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming hold the equivalent of as little as 1.8 trillion barrels of oil and potentially as much as 8 trillion barrels of oil. In comparison, Saudi Arabia reportedly holds proved reserves of 267 billion barrels. Unfortunately, oil-shale is rough equivalent to diesel fuel and a number of Clean Air Act regulations—such as low-sulfur diesel—and federal motor fuel taxes—which favor gasoline over diesel fuels—have created a strong financial disincentive regarding the production and use of oil-shale fuels. Many of these deposits are on public land making it more bureaucratically complicated to exploit this resource. My bill would provide a financial incentive for companies to invest in and produce more oil from oil shale.

Getting more domestic oil on the market is only half the solution. We haven't built a new refinery in this country in more than 25 years because the approval process for new refinery construction is estimated to require up to 800 different permits. While existing refineries have undergone significant expansion over the years, even as others have been shuttered, our aging refinery infrastructure leaves little margin for error. If we begin to produce more domestic crude oil we would need to turn it into home heating oil, gasoline, or diesel through the refining process. The ability to refine oil must keep pace with the demand for gasoline and diesel. My bill would create an expedited process for the construction of new refining capacity by streamlining the permitting process and opening up closed military bases for construction.

Clearly, developing new oil fields and refineries will take some time. In the interim my bill also helped promote the production of non-food sources for biofuels. It also opens up Federal land for the production of biofuel crops in order to provide relief from high food prices that have resulted from ethanol production.

Madam Speaker, I believe in conservation, I believe in energy efficiency, and I believe in diversifying our energy supply by using wind, solar, coal-to-liquid technologies, ethanol and other renewable energy sources. But the fact of the matter is that oil and natural gas are still going to be a part of our energy mix for a long time to come and we must be able to access our own resources rather than becoming more dependent on unstable parts of the world.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation to help America get on the road towards energy independence and to create real jobs at no cost to the taxpayer.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, a day that represents freedom, liberty and determination for the people of Mexico and Mexican Americans.

H. Res. 230, a resolution introduced by my friend Congressman JOE BACA, recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, a day on which we celebrate the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. While the Mexicans were outnumbered, they defeated a well-equipped French Army that had been undefeated for almost 50 years. The holiday of Cinco de Mayo is mainly a regional celebration in Mexico, while for Mexican Americans it represents heritage and pride.

Hispanics are the fastest growing minority community in our Nation. In 2007, the Hispanic population in the United States reached over 45 million, 13.2 million of whom live in California, and it continues to rise. Hispanics now own a record number of small businesses, creating millions of jobs across our country.

This Cinco de Mayo, let us thank the members of our Latino community for their important contributions to American culture and society. Please join me in celebrating Cinco de Mayo and appreciating the values, traditions, and contributions of Mexican Americans.

IN COMMEMORATION OF CINCO DE MAYO

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate Cinco de Mayo, or the Fifth of May, in honor of the historic day that Mexico defeated France at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday that symbolizes courage, honor, liberty, unity and the struggle for freedom for millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans.

Cinco de Mayo has a deep history that all Americans should recognize and remember. Shortly after Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1810, internal political takeovers and wars destroyed the Mexican economy causing Mexico to borrow money from France and other creditors. Mexico was unable to pay back the debt they owed to France; thus, the French invaded Mexico in an attempt to force repayment. The Mexican troops were outnumbered by the French—the French army had 6,500 soldiers while the Mexican army only had 4,500 soldiers. The odds were stacked against the Mexican soldiers; they were outnumbered, untrained and ill-equipped, fighting against an army deemed as one of the best trained and equipped in the world. The French soldiers were confident that their attacks against Mexico would leave the struggling nation on its knees, bowing to a European crown once again. Much to their dismay,

at the Battle of Puebla, the Mexican soldiers fought bravely and died with dignity for their countrymen's freedom. Each Mexican soldier fought valiantly with one common goal. In the end, it was the French army that surrendered on Mexican soil.

In addition to its historical significance in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is significant to all Americans because it marks the last time that any foreign power threatened to conquer North American soil.

Cinco de Mayo is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage people of Spanish and Latin American descent have shared with the United States. They have shared their music, art, language and traditions and these elements are sewn into the colorful fabric of "American" culture.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commemorating Cinco de Mayo—a day that reflects the core principles that America was founded upon.

THOSE MEMORIES SHOULD NOT BE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem by Mary-Ann S. Stanky of Cleveland, Ohio:

THOSE MEMORIES SHOULD NOT BE

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
Said the new enlistee
A new defender of democracy
Salute, stand tall, and be proud.
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
In line with his comrades
Wearing alike uniforms
Issued a gun to defend democracy.
We are ready!
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
Turning a corner. . . .
Rapid bursts of gunfire, from where?
Shouts from everywhere
Roof tops, windows noise all-around
Heads swirling left to right, up and down.
Quiet . . . an eerie quiet finally descends
Labored breathing
Eyes burning red, mouths dry,
Ears ringing from uncommon sounds
Minds fighting to stay in control.
Streaks of red trickle down, blood?
Look again, no!
Look again, yes!
Blood spills from open wounds
medic!
There! go there! hurry!
Pick-up the gun
Defender of democracy
My friend has gone home to a
Flag flying half-mast.

—Mary-Ann S. Stanky

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 230, a bill recognizing the significance of Cinco de Mayo.

This day holds special meaning for me as it does for millions of other Mexican Americans and it provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the innumerable contributions that generations of Mexican Americans have made to our national life.

On Cinco de Mayo, we celebrate the valor of a small contingent of Mexican patriots who prevailed against a much larger French army in the Battle of Puebla. Just as in our own fight for independence, they triumphed despite overwhelming odds. Indeed, like Lexington and Concord, Puebla marks a significant victory in the struggle for liberty in the New World.

Today Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a day to celebrate our Mexican American culture and the immeasurable ways in which Mexican Americans have shaped this country. Through music, literature and cuisine, we have enriched the American melting pot. Through an entrepreneurial spirit, Mexican American small businesses are playing a critical role in our economic recovery. Our men and women on the battlefield are helping to secure lasting peace in Iraq and Afghanistan. As CEOs, religious leaders, cabinet secretaries and Members of Congress, we are providing leadership in the face of unprecedented challenges both at home and abroad.

Finally, Mexico is among our most important allies and this day offers us the chance to reaffirm that friendship. As our neighbors to the south fight drug cartels and the H1N1 flu virus, we should pause to consider what more we can do to aid the Mexican people. Just as they did on Cinco de Mayo 1862, they are waging a courageous battle against forces that seek to undermine their democratic society and just as on that famous date, I am confident that Mexico will emerge a stronger and more prosperous nation.

IN GRATITUDE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND DONGGUK UNIVERSITY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to express my appreciation and thanks to the faculty of Dongguk University for the Honorary Doctorate in Political Science they bestowed upon me during my recent visit to South Korea. I wish to also recognize my friends in Korea and at Dongguk University who help make the conferral of this Honorary Doctorate possible. These individuals include: President Young-Kyo Oh and President Dong-Jin Sohn of Dongguk University, Governor Kwan-Yong Kim of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Mayor Sang-Seung Baek of Gyeongju City, former Korean Ambassador to the U.S. Tae-Sik Lee and Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Il-Hwan Cho and Mr. and Mrs. Dong-Suk Kim of the Korean American Voter's Council in New York.

I have always believed that the Republic of Korea is one of America's most committed friends and allies, and the warmth and hospitality extended to me and my wife during our stay in April reinforced my belief that the bonds that bind the people of the United States together with the people of South

Korea are as strong today as they have ever been.

Even so, I believe we should always look for opportunities to strengthen our alliance and friendship and one of the key areas of opportunity is passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

During my stay, I had the privilege of meeting with Foreign Minister Myung-Hwan Yu, National Security Advisor Sung-Hwan Kim, Chairman Jin Park of the Korean National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, our U.S. Embassy senior officials and the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea. In practically every meeting, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement was high on the agenda. No agreement or treaty is ever perfect, as it is always a product of compromise. And I agree that Congress has a legitimate right to debate the merits of the agreement; so let's have that debate; let's take this agreement out of legislative limbo, bring it to the House Floor, have an honest up or down vote, and let the chips fall where they may, Madam Speaker. I think we owe our South Korean friends that much respect because there's more at stake here than just economic growth; this Free Trade Agreement recognizes our special relationship with South Korea and reinforces the message that the United States stands squarely behind our friends and allies.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the remarks I delivered at Dongguk University, entitled: "The Korea-U.S. Alliance Partnership." And I would also ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic significance of the U.S.-Korea alliance and its growing importance in the years to come.

President Young-Kyo Oh, distinguished members of the faculty, and students of Dongguk University, ladies and gentlemen and friends: Thank you for your kind introduction. It is a great pleasure to be here today in the heart of Korea's ancient capital city. We are surrounded by history, culture and the memories and friendship that our nations have made together through battles and treaties, commerce and trade.

When I think about this partnership, one particular Korean-American friend comes to mind. His name is Johnny Yune. When Johnny was eleven years old, his family's home town was bombed by communist forces. As they attempted to flee, a particular blast knocked Johnny off his feet and sent him tumbling to a ditch where he was left to die. An American soldier named Private Brown found Johnny, rescued him from the ditch and saved his life that day.

In the weeks and months that followed, the Yune family got to know this Private Brown very well. Johnny remembers how he used to come over to his home, unshaven, with a guitar on his back and a truck full of rationed food. Private Brown would sing and teach them American songs like "Oh Susanna" and give them candy. Johnny is alive today because of that American soldier; and, although he never saw the Private once his unit had moved on, Johnny never forgot his kindness. In his career as a television and movie star, he often speaks of the war hero.

The virtues of the personal relationship between Private Brown and Johnny are not limited to this experience. In a greater sense, The United States and Korea also share a very special relationship.

The United States and the Republic of Korea first became partners more than 125 years ago, when we signed a treaty of amity